

The Voter

The official publication of the League of Women Voters of Roseville Area

FALCON HEIGHTS, LAUDERDALE, LITTLE CANADA, MAPLEWOOD, ROSEVILLE

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We're on the Web!

www.lwvrosevillearea.org

And Facebook!

www.facebook.com/lwvRosevilleArea

Marty to speak at Oct. 18 chapter meeting

"It's an election, not an auction..."

State Senator John Marty will speak at the Oct. 18 meeting of the League of Women Voter of Roseville Area. His talk is titled "It's called an Election, not an Auction... yet it feels like we are selling our democracy to the high bidders."

Marty is the chair of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee and the co-chair of the Legislative Energy Commission. He has been a leading advocate for clean elections and fair campaign funding throughout his career.

The meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. at the Autumn Grove Roseville Park building, 1365 Lydia Ave. W. The event is free and open to the public. There will also be a recorded viewing of the program the next day at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 910 County Road D, Roseville.



League to sponsor four forums for local, legislative candidates

The League of Women Voters of Roseville Area is sponsoring four forums in October for candidates seeking local or legislative office in Lauderdale, Roseville, and North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale. All candidates have been invited to participate.

The first forum, for three candidates seeking two seats on the Lauderdale City Council, will be at 7 p.m. Oct. 4 at Lauderdale City Hall, 1891 Walnut St. Candidates are Daniel Gumnit, Kelly Dolphin and Jeffrey Dains.

The second forum, for three candidates vying for two seats on the Roseville City Council, will be at 7 p.m. Oct. 12 at the Roseville City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive, Roseville. Candidates are Jason Etten, Wayne Groff and Lisa Laliberte.

The third forum, for school board candidates in District 622, will be at 7 p.m. Oct. 13 at the district offices, 2520 East 12th Ave., North St. Paul. Seven candidates are vying for four open positions. They are: Therese Auge, Nancy Livingston, Dan Porter, Becky Neve, Richard Bennett, Steve Hunt and Crystal Coleman.

The final forum, for House and Senate candidates from Senate District 66 will be at 7 p.m. Oct. 17 at Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave. Candidates are John Marty and Carolyn Jass. Candidates in 66A are Alice Hausman and Jon Heyer. Candidates in 66B are John Lesch and William P. Brownell.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Demystifying the process....

Encouraging Leaguers to vote is “preaching to the choir:” however, thinking about this election season causes one to pause and ask...What is it that I can do in my own small way to fulfill this lofty League mission of “...encouraging active participation in government....?”

As Desmond Tutu so aptly stated, “Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

Voting, while assumed and understood by League members, can and is intimidating to many, particularly to new voters whether they be 18 years-of-age, new citizens, or first time voters of any age. We can all fulfill the LWV mission by demystifying the process.

Where to begin? Start with the Minnesota Secretary of State website www.mnvotes.org. Information found on this website:

- ◆ Voting information in 10 languages
- ◆ Opportunities for voting beginning Sept. 25
- ◆ Vote Early beginning Nov. 1
- ◆ Sample ballots for specific addresses
- ◆ Location of polling places

Some Leaguers are pounding the streets, others patiently taking in aromas of high school cafeterias.....all continuing to register new voters. Others are participating in grass-roots activism.....not being overwhelmed by the national pollsters, rather focusing on local legislative, city council, county commissioner, and school board elections.

Other suggestions.....

- Volunteer with candidate forums and to help out at city halls conducting Vote Early.
- Text those 18 year-old kids and grandkids reminding them that it takes 2 minutes to register to vote online. Include the MN Secretary of State website in your text. www.mnvotes.org.
- Offer to assist in obtaining an absentee ballot for a friend in a care facility, a niece at college, a neighbor.
- Encourage neighbors, acquaintances to take advantage of Vote Early and go to city halls (e.g., Roseville, Little Canada) beginning Nov. 1, thus avoiding lines on Election Day.
- Email or text the Your Vote/Your Voice website, www.yourvoteyourvoicemn.org to any teacher you know....an excellent curriculum that can be modified for use at different age levels.
- Strike up a conversation with a millennial or two....whether they be relatives, neighbors, or strangers standing in line at Caribou, Cub Foods, or the car repair shop.... not just to remind them to vote, but to pass on website information that might help them understand what is actually on their ballot.
- No computer access? Use the phone...use the library.....offer use of your phone and Google www.mnvotes.org.

It's Always A Good Time for the Truth

By Florence Sprague

"You will not be able to read this book without changing. Minnesota will never be the same."

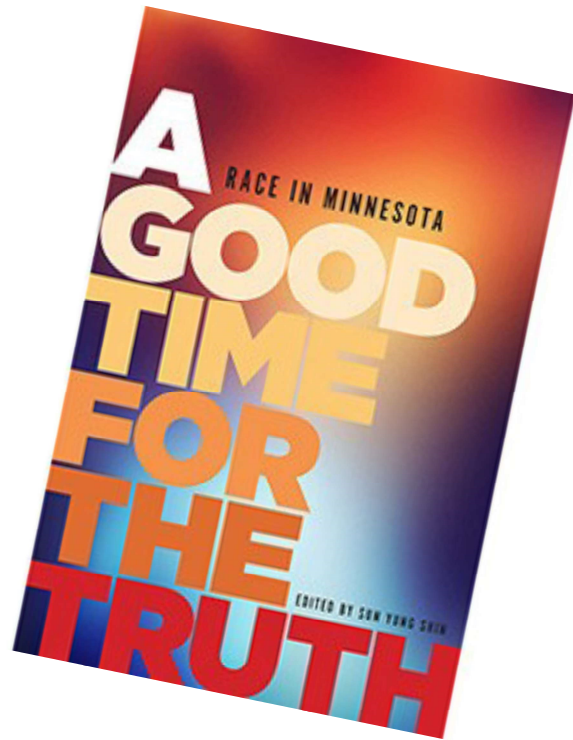
Aleks Pate

In the spring of 2016, with little fanfare, the Minnesota Historical Society Press released a powerful book, *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota*, edited by Sun Yung Shin. Within its pages sixteen Minnesota writers of color write with remarkable openness and honesty about the challenges, pain, disappointments, and hope they have experienced living in Minnesota.

This is not a sugar-coated lovefest praising the joys of living in a diverse community, but rather a direct reflection of the hurtful, less than perfect inclusion too many experience. But neither is it just Minnesota bashing. The essays contain a reality in which people can find a home and a community, but not without also enduring bias and insult. As Sia Her notes about the situation of people of color, "The writers show how America has failed to deliver on its promise, while they simultaneously paint a vision of our capacity to thrive when the color of our skin is no longer the gatekeeper into the garden of the American Dreams." Let's take a peek into some of the essays.

Recently MPR talk show host Kerri Miller led a discussion about parent shaming, the way people often judge a parent harshly when a child misbehaves or is out of control in a public space. The panelists and callers pointed out how this is often done with too little information, too little compassion, and too much hubris about our own parenting. Shannon Gibney points out that this phenomenon has yet another cutting edge for a mother of color, what she calls the "Fear of a Black Mother. This is the sometimes concrete, more often nebulous fear that those around you project, because they unconsciously believe you are unfit to mother your own child simply because you are a Black woman." (p.21)

The anecdotes and scars reported in these essays have occurred over the lifetimes of the writers. They reflect the accumulated weight of incidences of "driving while



not white," "sounding too black," "where are you really from" experiences that influence attitudes and darken dreams. And lest you think that they are all just history, over and done with, I was startled and shocked when a Hmong friend told me of driving up I-35 in September and passing a raucous group on a bridge over the highway waving Confederate flags and shouting their anger at the passing cars! This is Minnesota in the 21st century? The Stars and Bars are not our heritage; there can be no rationalization for this symbol of bigotry. What direction are we evolving, anyways? And why?

Bao Phi writes of wanting to protect his daughter and the rainbow of kids in her preschool, and "instead of feeling encouraged [at the diversity in the group], I got scared in a different way for each of them." The world is not always a welcoming place.

Reflect with JaeRan Kim on the pluses and minuses of growing up in Minnesota as a Korean adoptee, belonging to a family, yet always different. Feeling hyper visible and suffering the racist taunts of other children, yet invisible, expected to be Minnesotan, not Korean, wondering about roots and identity.

Ponder the challenges of cross cultural marriage with Kao Kalia Yang. Partners love one another, yet cannot

(Continued on page 4)

League Book Club to meet Nov. 16

“Can America Put Itself Back Together?”

Atlantic Monthly, March 2016

“A three-year, 54,000-mile journey reveals surprising sources of strength.” By James Fallows

Save the date.....and join in some thought provoking conversation!

Wednesday, Nov. 16, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Home of Carolyn Cushing

Magazine title: “Can America Put Itself Back Together?” by James Fallows, Atlantic Monthly, March 2016

www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2016/03/how-america-is-putting-itself-back-together/426882/

pdf version will be sent out via email to League members



Having a monthly League “Book Club,” is a work-in-progress. This is an opportunity for members in smaller groups to discuss social, environmental, political issues in context of articles and books and related to LWV mission. Guidelines, meeting times, suggested titles, are all open for current and future discussion.

Past discussion titles:

“The Case for Reparations,” Atlantic Monthly, June 2014 by Ta-Nehisi Coates – Sept. 2016

“What’s the Matter with Kansas?” by Thomas Frank – Aug. 2016

Windows and Mirrors

(Continued from page 3)

fully share some experiences, the life of the other opening windows onto the privilege and the prejudice in our community.

Wince at the disparate guidance given to graduate students of color by white professors, and the “oppressive whiteness” of Minnesota felt by other writers.

It is tempting to brush off some of these experiences with a “that was then, this is now” attitude. I do believe in change, growth, moving forward, fresh starts, progress. However, our community still contains so many who were shaped and harmed by the “then” biases that we will only hold ourselves back if we fail to acknowledge, respect and seek to heal. These voices need to be truly heard.

These essays are courageous in their honesty and each is in a unique voice. These voices may be angry, sad, melancholy, hopeful, warm, funny, and share many emotions with us, the readers. They are all important to a fuller understanding of Minnesota. Is Minnesota really so nice? How can it be nicer? How can we individually and collectively see more of the stories around us and not just the stereotypes? I hope that Aleks Pate is right and that reading this book will lead to change and not just a passing twinge. Our future will be better if the children of today grow up in a more welcoming, self-critical, and less racist community. Read, contemplate, share, discuss, grow.

Editor’s note: Florence Sprague is a member of the League of Women Voters of Roseville Area.



Manksy outlines voting process

Ramsey County Elections Manager Joe Mansky outlined the pertinent details of the voting process, from ballots to election judges to how new laws will increase voting, at the Sept. 6 meeting of the Roseville Area League of Women Voters. The meeting was co-hosted by the Roseville Library.

He supports more options for when and how to vote, such as at night, during the weekend, early voting, and voting by mail. He suggested vote centers in neighborhood locations. "It would be much easier to manage voting in 26 locations for several days, rather than 170 locations in one day," he said. He supports a system currently in place in Colorado, where 80 percent of the voting occurs outside of Election Day. "If you are registered, we would mail you a ballot," he said.

Manksy's presentation is available on the Roseville Area League's Web site, www.lwvrosevillearea.org

Greiling represents League on panel focusing on community policing

Mindy Greiling represented our League on a panel discussion in Falcon Heights about community policing Sept. 29. A co-chair of our police study, she talked about our recommendations that officers should have diversity training and collect better data to ensure accountability for avoiding racial profiling. She also highlighted our recommendation that cities should periodically evaluate their service delivery. "The charge for the task force studying Falcon Heights policing includes addressing all of our recommendations," she said.

More than 100 people attended the event, including many League members who were asked to stand at the beginning of the meeting.



Panelists, from left, Melvin Carter Jr., retired St. Paul police sergeant; Greiling; Teresa Nelson, legal director, American Civil Liberties Union; and Jeffrey Martin, president, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Dec. 4: Save the date!

Our League chapter's annual holiday dinner will be Dec. 4 at Applewood Pointe Langton Lake. More information, and a registration form, will be in the November Voter.

League opposes Styrofoam lunch trays

Despite our actions in the 1980s that prevented the Roseville Area Schools (District 623) from using Styrofoam lunch trays, the schools have now been using them for over 15 years. At the instigation of new League member Kerry Fine and with the blessing of our board, Mindy Greiling, Kathy Juenemann and she took action to again stop this bad environmental practice.

In August, they met with Angie Richey, the Nutrition Services Supervisor, and Shari Thompson, Business Manager, who are working on a Public Entity Innovation Grant (PEIG) from Ramsey County to address district waste and recycling issues. Sept. 14, when the board held the first hearing on a waste reduction policy that is a first step in applying for the grant, Kerry testified on behalf of our League, calling for a stronger policy than the one under consideration and intermediary steps, because the grant will take three or four years to implement.

Some elementary schools recycle food and some schools have student environmental groups. Harambee was named a US Green Ribbon School.



Mounds View Schools (District 621)

Mounds View Schools is our most environmental school district. They wash all their dishes and have never stopped. Furthermore, they compost all food and compostable paper products, e.g., napkins, and separate out all plastics for recycling.

North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale Schools (District 622)

Unfortunately, the North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale school district uses all throwaways for school lunches, including Styrofoam trays, due to cost, they said. Members who live in District 622 and are interested in League action there should let us know.

Kerry Fine, Mindy Greiling, Kathy Juenemann

Housing study progresses

Our League's housing study committee is nearing completion of informational interviews and will then prepare a survey for our five cities to learn about our local situation. Keep reading the many articles in the media practically daily in preparation for November units when Ellen Shelton from Amherst Wilder will tell us about homelessness in the suburbs compared to St. Paul and the great need for affordable housing. The St. Paul League is cosponsoring the meeting.

Co-Chairs: Rebecca Bormann, Mindy Greiling, Bonnie Koch

Members: Judy Berglund, Emma Duren, Georgeann Hall, Claire Jordan, Kathy Juenemann, Kris Nagy, Beth Salzl

Can you affect climate change?

by Gwen Willems

Ninety-nine percent of scientists believe that climate change is occurring—temperatures are increasing as CO2 is burned in fossil fuels, ice caps are melting, plants are shifting habitats and there are more severe weather events such as violent storms, floods and droughts. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and more than 30 national science academies recognize climate change. Are you one of the growing number of Americans who believe that climate change is caused or exacerbated by human activity? According to a poll taken last year by the *New York Times*, Stanford University and the nonpartisan environmental group Resources for the Future, 81 percent of people thought climate change was caused at least in part by human activities, and 71 percent expect that they will be personally hurt by climate change. The poll also found that 83 percent of Americans, including 61 percent of Republicans and independents, say that if nothing is done to reduce emissions, global warming will be a very or somewhat serious problem in the future.



What can we do on a personal level, aside from actions such as reducing our carbon footprints, using our cars less, and taking public transportation or biking? The majority of the American public support government action to curb global warming, according to the poll. In this election season, one criteria we could be using to choose candidates is their stands on climate change. We can do this on our own, or through the organization Vote-Climate.org. This nonpartisan group wants us to confront the climate crisis by requiring our elected representatives to take action. Here are some suggestions from Vote-Climate.org:

- Sign their pledge to require candidates to be actively involved in strategizing climate solutions and vote accordingly.
- Contact candidates and ask how they are engaged in finding climate change solutions.
- Have conversations with other Minnesota voters about the climate and its effects on their families and the next generations.
- Write about this topic in letters-to-the-editor of your local newspapers.
- Encourage voters to have confidence that there are solutions and their votes are powerful. As Vote-Climate.org says, “Our votes can be heard over the din of special interest money.”

Gwen Willems is a member of the Roseville Area LWV Board and an elected Supervisor with the Ramsey Conservation District. The Board of Supervisors sets district policies and oversees the budget, staffing, and conservation activities.

Council of Metropolitan Area League of Women Voters presents: **“Emergency Planning and Preparedness”**

How State and Metro agencies fund, plan for, practice for, and respond to emergency situations

Our distinguished speakers:

Barret Lane, Director, Emergency Management, City of Minneapolis

Nancy Carlson, Behavioral Health and Community Resilience, Minnesota Department of Health

Plus tips from an expert on personal safety in an emergency"

Saturday, Oct.15, 10:30 a.m.

Washburn Library 5244 Lyndale Ave S. Minneapolis

Free and Open to the public

Parking is limited – let’s car pool!

Karen Schaffer 651.398.2480

Judy Berglund, editor
2075 Farrington St.
Roseville, MN 55113

Calendar



October

- 4** **Candidate forum, Lauderdale City Council candidates**, 7 p.m. Lauderdale City Hall, 1891 Walnut St.
- 12** **Candidate forum, Roseville City Council candidates**, 7 p.m., Roseville City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive.
- 13** **Candidate forum, school board candidates in District 622**, 7 p.m. Oct. 13 at the district offices, 2520 East 12th Ave., North St. Paul.
- 17** **Candidate forum, House and Senate candidates from Senate District 66**, 7 p.m., Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave.
- 18** **Unit meeting featuring Sen. John Marty**, 6:30 p.m., Autumn Grove Roseville Parks building, 1365 Lydia Ave. W.

November

- 8** **Election Day**
- 15** Unit meeting featuring Ellen Shelton, Amherst Wilder Foundation researcher. Affordable housing and homelessness. 6:30 p.m. Autumn Grove Roseville Park building; co-sponsoring with LWV St. Paul.

Tuesday evening programs will be recorded and played at Wednesday morning meetings in October, and November. The Wednesday meetings will be at 9:30 a.m. at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 910 County Road D, Roseville.